

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at Page 1, before paragraph 1 and after the Title as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/433,182, filed May 29, 2003, which claims the benefit of International Application No. PCT/EP00/12121, filed December 1, 2000.

[[Description:]] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please add the following heading to the specification at Page 1, before paragraph 2:

2. Description of Related Art

Please add the following heading to the specification at Page 1, before paragraph 3:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please delete paragraph 4.

Please add the following heading to the specification at Page 2, before paragraph 21:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following heading to the specification at Page 5, before paragraph 38:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following abstract:

A band clamp for connecting a hose or pipe end to a pipe is provided. The band clamp includes flange sections which are located opposite each other and which are set apart radially

from one another. The band clamp is clamped around the connection on the flange sections with a member to prevent the band clamp material from creeping under stress. The member is disposed in the area of at least one of the flange sections. A sliding segment for preventing leaks is also provided.